

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's election/restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I for examination. With respect to the Examiner's request for restriction under Section 121, the Applicants further elect the claims of Group I(a).

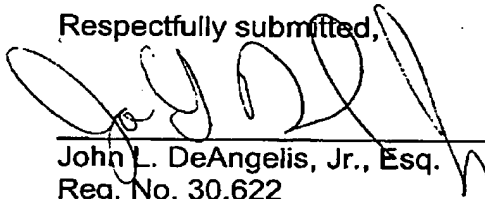
The requirement for restriction as set forth in the Office Action is respectfully traversed. The Applicants consider the invention to be defined by claims 1-25. In particular, the requirement for restriction to one of the Groups I(a) through I(f) is objected to as contrary MPEP § 806.05(c), which requires that to support a restriction requirement for a combination/subcombination, two-way distinctness must be shown and there must be a reason for insisting on the restriction, i.e., separate classification, status, or field of search. While the Examiner has posited an argument for distinctness between the combination and the subcombinations set forth in claims 1-20, (an argument with which the Applicants do not necessarily concur), no reason has been offered as to a separate classification, status or field of search. In fact all claims 1-20 would be jointly classified and searchable within the same field of search, as all relate to a joint inspection tool, with dependent claims 2-18 merely adding limitations to the independent claim from which they depend.

The Applicants also object to the Examiner's summary characterization of certain dependent claims in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, as the paraphrased text does not accurately reflect the scope of the claims. For example, with reference to the statement in paragraph I(a), "a securing component for attaching a tool to a joint," careful reference to claim 2 indicates that the securing component is not necessarily attached to the joint. With regard to paragraph I(d), the Examiner refers to "moving an arm away from a surface." But claim 8 refers to, "moves the arm in a direction away from and in a direction toward the surface."

In any case, to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement and to move the case along to examination and issue, the Applicants have elected as set forth above. The Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application or take other action as appropriate to protect the invention set forth in the withdrawn claims.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment or the claim changes made herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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